

JW/379



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application of

Masakazu BABA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/536,767

Docket No: Q88071

Group Art Unit: 3749

Confirmation No.: 4363

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: May 27, 2005

For: SAMPLE DRYING DEVICE AS WELL AS MASS SPECTROMETER AND MASS SPECTROMETRY SYSTEM THEREWITH

SUBMISSION OF INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(IPER)

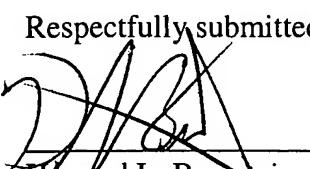
MAIL STOP MISSING PARTS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

For the Examiner's convenience, enclosed herewith is a copy of the English translation of the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER). It is assumed that copies of the cited references as required by §371(c) will be supplied directly by the International Bureau, but if further copies are needed, the undersigned will undertake to provide them upon request.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 31, 2005

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/JP2003/015252



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference NE-70138WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/JP2003/015252	International filing date (day/month/year) 28 November 2003 (28.11.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 29 November 2002 (29.11.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G01N 1/28, 27/447, 27/62, 30/60, 30/72, 33/48, 35/08, 37/00, B01D 57/00, 57/02, B81C 1/00, H01J 49/26		
Applicant NEC CORPORATION		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 28 November 2003 (28.11.2003)	Date of completion of this report 16 March 2004 (16.03.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/015252

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- the international application as originally filed
 the description:

pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

- the claims:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

- the drawings:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

- the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig. _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Claims 1 to 11

Document 1: JP 2001-264297 A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 26 September 2001, [claim 5]; paragraphs [0018] and [0019]; [fig. 5]

Document 2: JP 2002-236108 A (Japan Science and Technology Corporation), 23 August 2002, paragraph [0016]; fig. 1 to 7

Document 3: WO 00/22426 A1 (Hitachi, Ltd.), 20 April 2000, entire text; fig. 1 to 7

Document 4: JP 2000-162184 A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 16 June 2000, entire text; fig. 1 to 7

Document 5: JP 11-14614 A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 22 January 1999, entire text; fig. 1 to 10

Document 6: JP 10-48110 A (Shimadzu Corporation), 20 February 1998, entire text; fig. 1 to 3

Document 7: JP 6-10900 A (Canon Inc.), 21 January 1994, entire text; fig. 1 to 18

Document 8: Sano, Baba, Iguchi, Iida, Kawaura, Sakamoto, Dai 63 Kai Extended Abstracts; The Japan Society of Applied Physics, separate Vol. 3, 24 September 2002, page 1146 (25a-R-8)

Document 9: M. Baba, T. Sano, N. Iguchi, K. Iida, T. Sakamoto, H. Kawaura, Sixth International

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP 03/15252

Conference on Miniaturized Chemical and
Biochemical Analysis Systems (Micro Total
Analysis Systems 2002), 3 November 2002, Vol.
2, pages 763 to 765

Documents 1 to 11 are documents defining the general state of the art, and the feature concerning a sample drying device provided with a specimen drying portion having fine channels narrower than the channel is neither disclosed nor suggested in documents 1 to 9 cited in the international search report.